

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /079 W

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R 202144Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9180

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OAS VE

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR SAN JOSE CONFERENCE (RIO TREATY)

REF: STATE 133032 STATE 144512

1. POL COUNSELOR JUNE 20 FOR AN HOUR DISCUSSED WITH DRA. DE SUCRE, CHIEF OF OAS AFFAIRS IN THE VENEZUELAN FON MINISTRY, THE U.S. AND VENEZUELAN VIEWS AS TO THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES AND PROBLEMS CONCERNING AMENDMENT OF THE RIO TREATY. POL COUNSELOR CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE U.S. POSITION AS SET FORTH IN STATE 133032, PARTICULARLY PARA 4, ALSO DRAWING AS APPROPRIATE ON STATE A-97 AND A-2977.

2. GOV POSITIONS RESPECTING THE VARIOUS ARTICLES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. ARTICLE 2 - GOV ALSO PREFERS THE PRESENT LANGUAGE BUT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDED CHANGES EXCEPT FOR NEW PARA 3, WHICH THE GOV REGARDS AS "CONTRADICTIONARY AND UNNECESSARY."

B. ARTICLE 2 (BIS) - GOV REGARDS ECONOMIC SECURITY AS AN INTEGRAL FEATURE OF A NEW TREATY, BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT EXPLICIT OBLIGATIONS SHOULD BE IMPOSED BY ANY SUCH ARTICLE. GOV UNDERSTANDS U.S. OPPOSITION TO THIS ARTICLE AND BELIEVES THAT ARTICLE 2 (BIS) SHOULD BE REDRAFTED TO MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S.

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DRA. DE SUCRE SAID NOTHING ABOUT MAKING MENTION OF COLLECTIVE

ECONOMIC SECURITY IN THE PEAMBLE. POL COUNSELOR WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT THE SEEMINGLY MORE REASONABLE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE GOV. POL COUNSELOR OBSERVED THAT RAPIDLY-DEVELOPING VENEZUELA MIGHT SOON FIND ITSELF ON THE RECEIVING END OF THE EFFECTS OF SUCH AN ARTICLE. DRA. DE SUCRE ADMITTED THIS POSSIBILITY HAD ALSO OCCURRED TO THE GOV.

C. ARTICLE 3 - GOV AGREES THAT THIS ARTICLE SHOULD CLEARLY APPLY TO ARMED ATTACKS FROM OUTSIDE THE HEMISPHERE.

D. ARTICLE 4 - GOV IS STILL STUDYING THIS.

E. ARTICLE 6 - FOLLOWING RESTUDY, GOV NOW SHARES U.S.S. CONCERN DESCRIBED IN PARA 2-D OF STATE 133032. GOV AGREES THAT THE COMMITTEE LANGUAGE IS ACCEPTABLE, BUT IS RECEPTIVE TO SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

F. ARTICLE 6 (BIS) - GOV SUPPORTS THE CONSENSUS FAVORING THIS ARTICLE.

G. ARTICLE 8 - GOV IS NOT NOW OPPOSED TO THE NEW LANGUAGE AS SUCH, BUT CONSIDERS THAT IT CONTAINS "INCONSISTENCIES AND INCONGRUITIES" AND SHOULD BE IMPROVED AND REFINED.

H. ARTICLE 9 - GOV FINDS THE PROPOSED WORDING OF THIS ARTICLE ACCEPTABLE.

I. ARTICLE 17 - GOV OF COURSE AGREES. POL COUNSELOR MENTIONED U.S. POSITION THAT THE TWO-THIRDS REQUIREMENT FOR QUOTE DECISIONS UNQUOTE BY THE TREATY'S ORGAN OF CONSULTATION IS STILL VALID UNTIL PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT COMES INTO EFFECT. HE ALSO PROVIDED DRA. DE SUCRE WITH THE INFO CONTAINED IN PARA 6 OF STATE 133032.

3. POL COUNSELOR ALSO CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF STATE 144512 TO DRA. DE SUCRE. SHE SAID SHE HAD BEEN AWARE OF THIS PRESS REPORT.

4. COMMENT: POL COUNSELOR WAS AGREEABLY SURPRISED BY GOV'S MODERATION, AS EVIDENCED BY DRA. DE SUCRE'S COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TUDE. SHE INDICATED GOV REALLY WANTS THE SAN JOSE CONFERENCE TO BE A SUCCESS. WHETHER HER REASONABLENESS WILL BE REFLECTED BY AMBASSADOR MACHIN'S BEHAVIOR AT SAN JOSE REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT AT THIS POINT AT LEAST THE FONMINISTRY TECHNICIANS ARE DISPOSED TOWARD A CONSTRUCTIVE AND GENERALLY POSITIVE OUTLOOK REGARDING THE SAN JOSE CONFERENCE. SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, PLANNING MEETINGS, RIO TREATY, AMENDMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA06402
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750216-0669
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750627/aaaaaygr.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 133032, 75 STATE 144512
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PREPARATIONS FOR SAN JOSE CONFERENCE (RIO TREATY)
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, VE, OAS, SAN JOSE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006